



St. JOSEPH PARISH

NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

**Pastor, St. Joseph & Pastor, Nativity:
Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor**

**Business Manager, St. Joseph:
Sharon Angell**

**Business Manager, Nativity
Music Director, Nativity:
Ed Klimeczak**

**Office Manager, St. Joseph:
Kathy Flynn**

**Worship and Liturgy Coordinator,
St. Joseph:
Christina Dupre**

**Assistant Music Director, and Funeral
and Wedding Coordinator, St. Joseph:
Joy Rivera**

**Principal, St. Joseph School
and PSR Coordinator:
Amy Makruski**

**Operations Manager, St. Joseph:
Bob Kenska**

**Director of Youth Activities
Joshua Gonzalez**

**February 15, 2026
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848
Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

NATIVITY BVM PARISH OFFICE: 440-986-7011

ST. JOSEPH PARISH WEBSITE: stjosephamherst.com

ST. JOSEPH PARISH ADDRESS: 200 St. Joseph Dr., Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH: 333 S Lake St., South Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 767, Amherst, OH 44001

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL OFFICE: 440-988-4244

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.sjsamherst.org

Mass:

Monday, Friday 9:00 A.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Tuesday 8:00 A.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Thursday 7:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday Vigil 4:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday 5:30 P.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Sunday 8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

The 11:00 A.M. Mass will be livestreamed.

The link can be found on our website: www.stjosephamherst.com

Confession at St. Joseph Parish:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 A.M. - Noon

Liturgy Schedule

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Robert Jaworski and Archer Ziegler (Family)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th – No Mass

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th – ASH WEDNESDAY
Ashes distributed at all Masses
9:00 a.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
12:00 p.m. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parishes
Mass at Nativity Parish
7:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
Mass at St. Joseph Parish

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 p.m. Personal Intention
Confessions to follow until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Fr. Larry Martello (Friends)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 p.m. Ruth Farkas (Husband)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 p.m. Victor Celaschi (Melanie and George Caruso)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd – Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 a.m. Raynelle Galvin (Friends)
11:00 a.m. William Phillips (Family)
5:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

Daily Readings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th – Weekday
Jas 1:1-11 / Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th – Weekday
The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Jas 1:12-18 / Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th – Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2 / Mk 6:1-6,16-18

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th –
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th – Friday after Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st – Vigil, First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 / Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19 / Mt 4:1-11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd – First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7 / Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19 / Mt 4:1-11

Activity Schedule

MONDAY-FRIDAY
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (NBVM)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th – No School

7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. – Introduction to Lent and the Easter Season, and a prayerful Discernment for the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!** (Nativity Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th
5:30 p.m. P.S.R. for Kindergarten thru Grade 8 (St. Joseph School)
No Sacred Sisters Meeting tonight

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19th
9:00 a.m. Vincentians Meeting (Conference Room)
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)
6:00 p.m. Scripture Study (St. Joseph Church)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
7:00 p.m. “Mary’s Way of the Cross” Presentation (St. Joseph Church)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
6:00 p.m. Holy Ground Youth Group (School Gym)
(We will meet near the choir for the 5:00 p.m. Mass prior to our session.)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – January 25, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 8,702.00
Christmas Offertory	\$ 110.00
Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God	\$ 35.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 302.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 75.00
Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 5.00
Latin American Collection	\$ 328.00
Catholic University	\$ 25.00
Pro-Life Collection	\$ 100.00
Vincentians	\$ 139.70

E-Giving January 20, 2026-January 26, 2026

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,809.46
Eoffering Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 196.94

Nativity Parish

Figures will be in upcoming bulletin.

To be added to St. Joseph and Nativity's weekly emails,
simply text SJPA to 84576. We typically
send only emails and respect your privacy;
text messages will be sent only for urgent situations.

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ASH
WEDNESDAY

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 18TH REMINDERS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics, but are not Holy Days of Obligation. Additionally, Fridays during Lent are also days of abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Likewise, the norms for abstaining from meat are binding from age 14 onward. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

A NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have you wished you had a better understanding of the Sunday Scripture readings and Mass?

Do you want to be more engaged in Mass?

Join us on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. We will be presenting Dr. Brant Pitre in videos explaining Mass and readings for the following Sunday.

The study will continue on Thursdays evenings and end by 6:45 p.m. This is not a discussion group. Mass will follow at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, call Bob at 919-896-5413.

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

Please join us for “Mary’s Way of the Cross” presented by ladies from both parishes on Friday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. All are welcome.

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS FOR LENT

The Little Black Books for Lent are available and are still only \$2.00. They are located near the bulletin boards and on the counter in the gathering area of the church.

NEW DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN CONTENT

Please make a note that if you would like to submit information for the bulletin, please email it to parishoffice@stjosephamherst.com, by Noon, NO LATER than 2 Fridays prior to the Sunday you want it to appear.



LENTEN CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church, Amherst
&
Nativity B.V.M., South Amherst

Ash Wednesday, February 18th Mass Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church
- 12:00 Noon Mass at Nativity B.V.M. Church
- 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church

Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

- February 20th, the Women's Group presentation of “Mary’s Way of the Cross” at St. Joseph Church
- February 27th, at Nativity B.V.M. Church
- March 6th, at St. Joseph Church
- March 13th, at Nativity B.V.M. Church
- March 27th, at Nativity B.V.M. Church
- April 3rd, Taize Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph Church

Diocesan Wide “Evening of Confession”

- Wednesday, March 4th, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church

First Friday and First Saturday Rosary in March

- 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 6th, at Nativity B.V.M. Church
- 9:00 a.m. on Saturday March 7th, at St. Joseph Church

“The Answer”

- Friday and Saturday, March 20th and 21st, 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Nativity of the BVM Parish

- Weekdays, Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
For information on Adoration, please call Josie Tornabene at 440-396-5429.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON) AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Saturdays of Lent from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Thursdays following the 7:00 p.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m. (except Holy Thursday)
Good Friday Confessions follow the Noon Liturgy until 3:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday from 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSON) AT NATIVITY B.V.M. PARISH

Holy Thursday Confession follow the 7:00 p.m. Mass until 9:00 p.m.



COME EXPERIENCE

THE ANSWER

MARCH 13, 14 | 7:30PM
Solid Rock Community Church
680 Abbe Rd N
Elyria, Ohio

MARCH 20, 21 | 7:30PM
St. Joseph Parish
200 Saint Joseph Drive
Amherst, Ohio 44001

MARCH 27, 28 | 7:30PM
Saint Angela Merici
20970 Lorain Road
Fairview Park, Ohio

EVENT COST: **FREE** | PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

St. Joseph School is committed to integrating the Catholic faith and culture to help students develop into mature, Christian persons, whose lives are modeled on Christ and His Gospel message. Check out our St. Joseph Parish School and register your child for the 2026-2027 academic year. Registration is now open; visit our website for details at www.stjosephamherst.com. Registration forms can be found on the admissions page of the school website.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL IN-PEW APPEAL



The 2026 Catholic Charities Appeal is underway with an in-pew commitment process taking place this weekend. This is not a special collection; rather, the Catholic Charities Appeal represents the chance for all Catholics to make a significant pledge, payable in installments, to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland in order to support its mission of a society that stands united in its support of the "least among us." Many parishioners have received a letter from Bishop Malesic requesting their support. If you have not received this letter, please respond to the in-pew commitment process today! If you have received the mailing, please respond to it. There is a box on the in-pew envelope to indicate that you have responded by mail.

Yours are the hands... Your support of the 2026 Catholic Charities Appeal helps us to carry out the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: "I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." Please consider a generous gift that will change the lives of those who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland.

**Yours are the hands with which
He blesses all the world.**

MINISTRY LEADER NEEDED FOR THE MISSION TEAM



The Mission Team is currently looking for a new Ministry Leader. After many years of service, John Sabo is relinquishing his role as Ministry Leader. Those of you who have participated in this ministry have many wonderful, heartfelt experiences of meeting and becoming friends with people both here and in El Salvador. Please pray about taking on this position so that this ministry can continue, grow and give others the Spiritual and Religious experiences that are the foundation of this ministry. John will be leaving his position by April 2026.

If you are interested or have any questions about what this position entails, call John at 440-984-4429 or email him at StJosephmissionteam@gmail.com. John is willing to help in the transition of leadership.

SAVE THE DATE: BACCALAUREATE MASS



Our Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at the **11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 10th**. This special day provides an opportunity for all high school, vocational school, and college graduates to participate in and be celebrated at Mass.

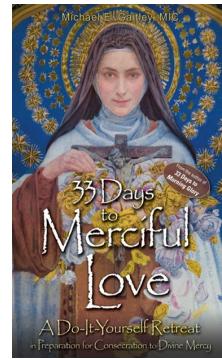
We invite graduates to take part by serving as a lector for the Processional Introduction, the First and Second Readings, and the intercessions. Please encourage your graduate to participate – This is a beautiful Mass and a very special day for all to cherish.

Sacred Sisters Wednesday Night Ladies Prayer Group: Sacred Sisters will not meet on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th, but will start back up on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 at Old Stone Evangelical Community Center with the following book / session "33 Days to Merciful Love" by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

This 5 week session opens hearts, including all of us, to a fuller meaning of Divine Mercy
(with the help of St. Therese of Lisieux)

- 1: "Keep Trusting" Trust is an attitude of faith expressed by praising and thanking God for everything with a smile because we truly believe in God's goodness.
- 2: "Keep Trying" Keep trying to grow in holiness every day.
- 3: "Keep Loving" Keep doing small things with great love.
Have extraordinary love in ordinary things!

You will need to purchase a book for this session. If you would like to join the Ladies Wednesday Night Prayer Group, purchase a book and or have questions you can call or text Lesley 440-371-6418.
No Meeting also, on April 1st., Wednesday of Holy Week. All are WELCOME!!!



TUESDAY MASSES AT NATIVITY IN SOUTH AMHERST DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

Please note: During the winter months, if the weather is bad and there is NO school for either or both St. Joseph School in Amherst or Firelands Schools in South Amherst due to the weather, then there will be NO Mass at Nativity of the BVM Church on that Tuesday morning.

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please Note: There will be no "Dinners on the Go" on February 24th due to the Fish Fry on Friday, February 27th.



Join us **February 27th AND March 27th** (Fridays), at Nativity BVM Church (333 S. Lake Street, S. Amherst) for a **Lake Erie Perch Fish Fry!** Dinners will be available for dine-in OR carry-out from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The cost of each dinner is \$25.00.



The Kids Dinner (10 yrs. old & under) is \$5 for 1 slice of cheese pizza w/a bag of potato chips & a slice of cake.

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, Tap Water & Lemonade will be provided with purchased meal(s). Cans of pop & bottled water will be available for \$1 each while supplies last.

No alcohol is permitted on the premises.

This is a dine-in or carry-out event. No "drive-thru" is available.
Call ahead orders are appreciated but not required to Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519. Pay by check to Nativity BVM or cash (*preferred*) at the door.

*We look forward to seeing you there!
Lovingly, Your Dinners on the Go Crew*



ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Altar and Rosary Society membership has begun with the Stewardship program. Our yearly dues are generally collected January through March 1st. If you would like to join the Altar and Rosary Society and did not receive an Altar and Rosary envelope with your January donation envelopes, you can place your \$5.00 dues in an envelope with the following information:

- Your Name, Address, City, Zip Code
- Phone Number (include 440 or area code); cell phone numbers enable us to contact you if a storm is cancelling our meeting.
- Email Address, Birthday, and Home Parish

Drop it in the collection basket, or give it to one of the Society officers (Nancy Ann Smith, Carol Brewer, Michaelen Udovich, or Kathy Rokasy) OR mail it to Nativity BVM – Altar and Rosary Society, P. O. Box 767, Amherst, OH 44001

We would love to have you join us!

NBVM HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know – whether a friend, family member, or acquaintance – is a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in South Amherst and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519 or Wendy Rosso at 440-986-0304, so that we are able to meet the needs of the homebound.

"ANSWER THE CALL"

**Diocese of Cleveland
Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference
Saturday, March 7, 2026**



FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Pete Burak
Vice President of
Renewal Ministries



Bishop Edward C. Malesic
Bishop of Diocese of Cleveland
Speaking at 3:00 PM
Celebrating Mass at 4:00 PM



Father Damian Ference
Diocese of Cleveland
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**AGAIN IN 2026....50/50 Raffle
& T-Shirt Sale**
**Help to defray ever-increasing costs.
BRING CASH!**

**Registration: 8:00 am
Mass: 4:00 pm
Adjourn: 5:00 pm**

Registration deadline is February 23, 2026
For info or to register, go to www.cmfneo.com
Need help? Call 216-633-3502



ST. JOSEPH AND NBVM YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Our YouTube Channel offers the 11:00 a.m. Mass livestreamed, along with past videos and newly added content! We will also be uploading weekly event videos featured during Mass on Weekends, as well as new music from our music ministry.

Subscribe to us on YouTube at [sjandnbvmmmedia](https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia).

ST. JOSEPH MASS LIVESTREAMED

To view our 11:00 a.m. Mass for the homebound, visit our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia8044/streams>

Or you can use the button on our website:<https://stjosephamherst.com/>



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In the charity of your prayers,
We commend to God:

Sheila Montgomery
Kathy Slack, Sister of Rita Greiner
Karen Matesick

We pray for their families and the families of all our deceased relatives and friends that they may enjoy eternal peace with our Risen Christ.

Let us also remember to pray for those confined to hospitals and nursing homes, the homebound, and their caregivers, our sons and daughters in the military, those dealing with mental illness and addictions, the homeless and those who have no one to pray for them.

THE CLEVELAND GUILD OF THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Cleveland Guild of the Catholic Medical Association is sponsoring a conference entitled, “Innovative Approaches to Compassionate Healthcare: The Ministry of Mercy” on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center. Bishop Edward C. Malesic will celebrate the opening conference Mass at 8:00 a.m. Medical education credits are available for healthcare professionals, and the conference is also open to anyone interested who is not in healthcare.

For online registration assistance, please contact Debra Sudy at 216-696-6525, ext. 3670. For questions about the conference, call 216-312-4172.

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist will host a Holy Hour for Peace on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. All are encouraged to join in prayer as a step toward healing in our nation and our communities. May we be instruments of peace.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

If you have lost a loved one and are looking for a place of understanding and support, you are invited to Growing Through Grief, an 8-week session offered by the St. Ladislas bereavement group. Beginning February 18, the weekly program provides a safe, compassionate space to share, listen, and gently move forward together. Sessions begin February 18 and are offered at no cost. The group meets at 2345 Bassett Road in Westlake. Email pdubois@stlads.org with questions or to register.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES GRIEF SUPPORT

The Catholic Cemeteries Association’s next Sunday Grief Support Group will be Sunday, February 15th. In-person will meet at 3:00 p.m., virtual at 5:00 p.m. In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings are being held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand. For details, call Renee at 216-930-4866 or visit: www.clecem.org/Events.

In-Person Locations:

- All Saints, Northfield | 480 W. Highland Road
- All Souls, Chardon | 10366 Chardon Road
- Holy Cross, Akron | 100 E Waterloo Road
- Holy Cross, Brook Park | 14609 Brookpark Road
- St. Joseph, Avon | 32789 Detroit Road

Virtual – Please register at:

<https://clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>

BRINGING AMERICA BACK TO LIFE CONVENTION

The Bringing America Back to Life Convention is the premier Diocesan-wide Pro-life event: two jam-packed days filled with the nation’s top speakers, workshops, and exhibitors. To discover more about this must-see event, view the impressive lineup of speakers, and register for “In-Person” or “Live-Stream” options, visit <https://bringingamericabacktolife.org/> or call 216-246-9127. Join us March 13th and 14th as we Bring America Back to Life!

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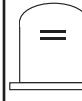
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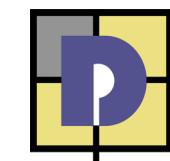
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